



# CNCC NEWSLETTER

*Oldest Chapter in the Carolinas*

*Chartered November 23, 1922*

Central North Carolina Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Raleigh, North Carolina

January 2025

## Dean's Letter

Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and were able to find some time to slow down and enjoy the season! For me, our family always travels to Hilton Head Island for the holidays, which has become a cherished tradition.

As we look ahead to 2025, I look forward to our upcoming events, which are quickly approaching! I want to take a moment to highlight some of the exciting events we have this Spring. I hope you will plan to join us and feel free to bring a friend if you think they would enjoy these offerings!

### **“THE ART OF HYMN PLAYING AND ORGAN REGISTRATION”**

Edenton Street UMC

**January 25th, 10 am - 3:30 pm**

Dr. Timothy Olsen will present a workshop and masterclass about his creative ideas in hymn playing and the overarching principles of organ registration. After lunch, attendees are welcome to participate in the afternoon masterclass! No matter your experience level, we welcome you to prepare a piece or hymn to share for Dr. Olsen's thoughts.

To RSVP to attend or participate in the masterclass, email John Massenburg (jmj777@att.net) by **January 15th**.

### **“A FESTIVAL OF PIANO AND ORGAN DUETS”**

North Raleigh United Methodist Church

**February 22nd at 3 pm**

We are excited to host a special concert to highlight and benefit our scholarship programs and invest in the future of young organists. AGO members and their friends are invited to present a classical, sacred, and other favorite arranged for piano and organ duet in this concert. If you don't have a duet partner in mind, we can also help pair you with another duo partner.

The concert is free and open to the public, but attendees will be invited to consider making a donation of any amount to the chapter's scholarship fund. All donations will directly assist in the chapter's mission to invest in the next generation of organists by providing organ lessons for young organists.

If you are interested in participating in this event, email John Massenburg (jmj777@att.net).

As we begin this year together, thank you again for everything that each of you do! It is such a privilege to serve our community together through music with each of you!

Thanks,

TANNER WINCHESTER, DEAN

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The Chapter is very grateful for  
contributions to the  
**General Fund** and the  
**Cooper Miller Scholarship Fund**



## CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

*Newsletter* published monthly by the Central North Carolina Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Submission Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> of preceding month.

The Chapter website is

<https://www.centralncago.org/>

You can also find us on Facebook, thanks to Lyn Francisco's administration:

<https://www.facebook.com/cnccago/>

# Chapter Event



*The Central NC Chapter of the  
AGO presents*



***“The Art of Hymn Playing  
and Registration”***  
by Dr. Timothy Olsen



**Saturday, January 24**

General Session 10:00 am until noon

Master class: 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm

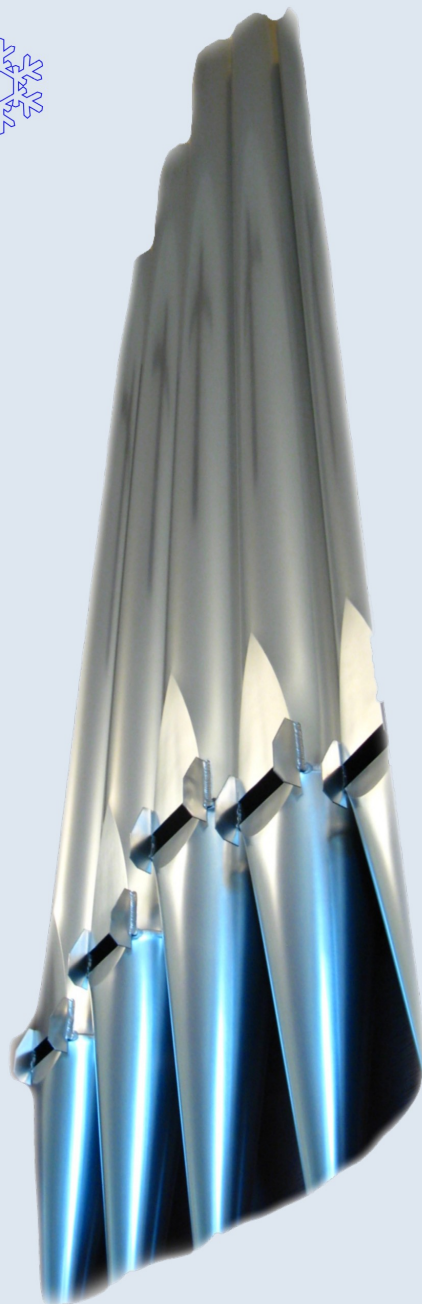
at Edenton Street UMC

(228 W Edenton St, Raleigh)

Whether you are a veteran organist or simply looking for new ideas, you won't want to miss this creative workshop with Dr. Timothy Olsen. Following the morning session and lunch together, we will regather for a masterclass open to all levels with Dr. Olsen. To RSVP to attend or participate in the masterclass, please email John Massenburg ([jmj777@att.net](mailto:jmj777@att.net)).



**Dr. Timothy Olsen** is the Kenan Professor of Organ at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Associate Professor of Organ at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Olsen also serves as Cantor at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, where he oversees the music staff, directs the adult choirs, and plays for services.



## *Meet the Clinician...*



**TIMOTHY OLSEN**

Timothy Olsen serves a joint faculty position as Kenan Associate Professor of Organ at UNCSA and Associate Professor of Organ at Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC. He also serves as Cantor (Organist/Music Director) at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem where he oversees a thriving music program.

As a recitalist, Dr. Olsen performs solo organ recitals, as well as trumpet/organ duo recitals with Judith Saxton. He also frequently presents masterclasses and workshops for universities and chapters of the American Guild of Organists, and has been a featured artist at AGO Region conventions as recitalist and workshop presenter.

Dr. Olsen holds degrees from Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) and the Eastman School of Music (MM and DMA). Past faculty positions include Ithaca College and Oklahoma City University, as well as sabbatical replacements at Cornell University and Binghamton University.

Dr. Olsen was the first-prize winner of the 2002 AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). He has recorded compact discs on the NAXOS and Raven labels (including works recorded for the first time), and has been featured multiple times on American Public Media's Pipedreams, WCPE's (Raleigh, NC) Great Sacred Music, and WXXI's (Rochester, NY) With Heart and Voice.

He currently resides in Pfafftown, NC with his wife, Daniele, their three boys, and their fierce six-pound Chihuahua, Milo Bjørn.





## MAUREEN HOWELL WINS FIRST PLACE IN AGO COMPOSITION COMPETITION



The AGO Task Force for Gender Equity has named local chapter member Maureen Howell as first place winner of the 2025 Woman Composer Sunday Organ Composition Competition in the category of Short Composition for Worship Services. She received a \$500 prize.

Her winning composition, *Reflection on Kingsfold*, has been published in the January issue of *The American Organist Magazine*. You can download your own copy at

[https://www.agohq.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Website%20Files/KINGSFOLD%20-%20PDF%20REVISED\\_v2.pdf](https://www.agohq.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Website%20Files/KINGSFOLD%20-%20PDF%20REVISED_v2.pdf)

Maureen's featured article is on p. 34 of the January issue. And the entire piece is printed on pgs. 35-37.

You can hear her playing "Reflection on KINGSFOLD" at the AGO YouTube site:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UGIuTCKOG0&list=PLSJ9JGlhsPJs3ohtKc7Gfpp5UeVjZda9q&index=4>

The competition was in celebration of Woman Composer Sunday on March 9, 2025. Woman Composer Sunday, observed on March 9, 2025, is a global event originated by the Society of Women Organists and Royal College of Organists in the U.K., and adopted by the AGO, to encourage the use of music by women composers in worship services and concerts on the Sunday nearest International Women's Day.

Maureen Howell is a native of Virginia, currently serving as Organist at First Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from The College of William and Mary and a Masters in Church Music from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. As a church musician for more than 40 years, she has served churches of various denominations in Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, and Kentucky, working in music ministry alongside her husband, Warren. She has been featured on American Public Media's Pipedreams. Howell enjoys composing and arranging for piano, organ, and choirs, especially creating fresh settings of familiar hymns. She has publications with MorningStar Music Publishers and GIA Publications, Inc.

## **“A Festival of Piano and Organ Duets”**

North Raleigh United Methodist Church  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm

The concert is free and open to the public. All donations will directly assist in the Chapter’s mission to invest in the next generation of organists by providing organ lessons for young organists.



An inspiring benefit concert to support our Chapter’s Scholarship Fund featuring classical, sacred, and other favorites arranged for piano and organ together.

Come hear exciting arrangements of beloved pieces—a treat for music lovers of all ages!

**Contact John Massenburg ([jmj777@att.net](mailto:jmj777@att.net)) for more information and to get more details about performing!**

# COOPER-MILLER AUDITIONS ARE COMING SOON!

## 2025 Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship students!

- Auditions will be held in a Raleigh church on Saturday, February 8, 2025.
- Student must be between 13 and 18; if 18, they must still be in high school at the time of the audition.
- For prospective organ students, audition may be performed on piano.
- Complete application packet may be found at

Contact Lorraine Magnuson for more information.  
919-889-5639 or [raineymag@gmail.com](mailto:raineymag@gmail.com)

Registration forms available at <https://www.centralncago.org/>

A worship and music  
conference sponsored by  
the Association of Lutheran  
Church Musicians



*Save the Date!!*  
<https://alcm.org/2025-raleigh-durham/>

Join us from August 4-8, 2025, in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina for our 2025 national biennial conference, **For all that is to be**. This conference will be an exciting opportunity to gather with friends and colleagues, old and new, who share a passion for leading the church's song. Attendees will leave feeling both inspired and equipped with knowledge and new ideas.

We will spend time at [Duke Chapel](#) worshipping together and hearing a concert by [VOCES8](#) as well as a hymn festival led by Tom Trenney at [Holy Name Cathedral](#) in Raleigh. Our "home base" is a well-located Embassy Suites, where we will also have the opportunity to hear a concert by the [Raleigh Ringers](#). In addition to worship and concert events, there will be an array of workshops designed to offer practical ideas and useful information to equip and educate attendees. Our conference hotel is also a wonderful venue for fellowship time and a great place to relax when not attending conference events.



Our theme, **For all that is to be**, describes our effort to equip people in all stages of their love for music of the church. Whether you are a volunteer, part-time or full-time employed, a student, newly employed or retired, this conference will nurture your passion for the many ways in which we continue to share the gospel message.



# Central North Carolina AGO Chapter Events 2024-2025

Saturday, October 19      Preludes, Postludes and Pastries at Hayes Barton Baptist Church

Saturday, November 9      Cooper-Miller Celebration Recital at Meredith College

**Saturday, January 25**

**"The Art of Hymn Playing and Organ Registration"** (see flier in this issue)

Dr. Timothy Olsen presenter

Edenton Street UMC

10:00 am until noon General Session and 1:30-3:00 pm master class

Contact John Massenburg at [jmj777@att.net](mailto:jmj777@att.net) for master class information

**Saturday, February 8**

**Cooper-Miller Scholarship Competition**

Details to follow

Contact Lorraine Magnuson for more information at [raineymag@gmail.com](mailto:raineymag@gmail.com).

Registration packet available at

**Saturday February 22**

**Piano and Organ Duet Concert** (members and friends)

North Raleigh UMC

3:00 pm

**Quimby Competition Auditions**

Details to follow





## EVENTS AT DUKE



7:30 PM

**Tonality: America Will Be (Duke Arts Presents Concert, Tickets Required)**

**LOCATION: DUKE CHAPEL**

Established in 2016 by Alexander Lloyd Blake, Tonality is an award-winning chamber chorus with a mission to deliver authentic stories through voice and body to incite change, understanding, and dialogue.

**[Purchase tickets.](#)**

For this MLK Weekend concert at Duke Chapel, Tonality will present "America Will Be," a program that conjures a patriotic future for the United States for all people. The group builds upon choral arrangements of beloved songs like "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and "A Change is Gonna Come" with striking choral performances of speeches, poetry and texts to create a thought-provoking evening of song. This stirring and powerful new group is a must-see for anyone interested in art that raises tough questions while honoring the promise of a great America.

## SELLING A WERSI OAX-800 ORGAN

Selling a high-end organ: Wersi OAX-800. Made in Germany, and is a current model that they still make and sell currently (very expensive to buy new). I'm moving to a new smaller place soon, so can't keep it. Lots more available on Web; search for "Wersi OAX-800" (or just "Wersi OAX organ").

This is a modern, high-end dual-keyboard musical instrument. It can sound like a great cathedral pipe organ ... or a theatre pipe organ ... or a Hammond B3 rock/gospel/jazz organ ... but it's also is a full-fledged modern keyboard instrument in that it can do things like drums (percussion), bass, synthesizers, guitars, orchestral instruments ... it's a very powerful and unique instrument.

Two 76-note (splittable) velocity-sensitive keyboards, 25-note pedalboard. It has very good internal speakers, so it could be completely "stand-alone" in a chapel or home. Optionally, I also have a power amp, speakers, and subwoofer for sale. They give it a MUCH bigger sound.

For a church, it can handle traditional pipe-organ sounds for hymns, but also sounds great for gospel and Christian-rock types of music. Or can augment a church's band/orchestra.

This organ would also be great for a home organ enthusiast, to play for home enjoyment or practice.

Also - if someone local to me buys it - I can show them how to use it (how to use the 'technical' aspects etc.) - I'd give a few free 'technical lessons' on how to get the most out of the instrument, to any local buyer. To come try it, or talk pricing, contact Jim"

### MY CONTACT INFO:

Jim Laing  
jimlaing@icloud.com  
919-264-5968



SIZE: 52"w x 44"d x 41"h  
(with bench in playing  
position; not including  
height of music rack)

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) provides a professional opportunities service to its members by sharing information about Positions Available. This includes both permanent “open benches” and also one-time “substitute dates.” The Guild cannot endorse or recommend any person for a job or substitute date. Membership in the AGO is open to all who pay dues, regardless of education, experience, ability and/or skills. The AGO Professional Relations Director passes along information, which may include salaries offered by institutions and specifics about jobs/dates, as information is received from an institution. AGO members are encouraged to negotiate salaries and explore options with each offered position. The Central North Carolina Chapter, AGO does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of material provided for these listings, nor does inclusion of information in the listings imply endorsement by the chapter.

It has come to the attention of the Professional Relations Director that we have churches that do not understand that resumes are for the purview of the appropriate search committee. If confidentiality is critical to you, please make it clear in your cover letter that this is a requirement for you, at least in the initial stages of inquiry and dialogue.

If you are seeking a supply organist, the fastest method is to contact the Professional Relations Director with all the pertinent information. When sent to all members by email, many requests are filled within one hour. This method has saved a lot of time otherwise spent in calling an ever-changing list of names. Contact information is listed below.

If you are aware that a church/synagogue position is becoming available, (i.e., you are making a change), please advise the Professional Relations Director as soon as possible for listing and distribution. Contact:

Elizabeth Goldstein-Epstein  
3700 Baron Cooper Pass, #307  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
(C) 941-928-0176  
elizabethgoldstein@yahoo.com

The Professional Relations Director will neither recommend anyone for a position nor serve as an agent for any member. The Professional Relations Director is always available to members and to hiring institutions for the purpose of answering questions.